

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10277 201517Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 /070 W
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R 201232Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4838
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10277

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IN, NP
SUBJECT: VAJPAYEE'S REMARKS UPON RETURN FROM NEPAL

REF: KATHMANDU 2990 (NOTAL)

1. RETURNING FROM HIS THREE-DAY VISIT TO NEPAL JULY 16, FOREIGN MINISTER A.B. VAJPAYEE SAID THAT HE WAS FULLY SATISFIED WITH HIS TALKS THERE WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS "CORDIAL, FRANK AND FORTHRIGHT. HE DESCRIBED HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH KING BIRENDRA AS "OPEN-HEARTED." SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN AT THE AIRPORT, VAJPAYEE SAID THAT INDIA WOULD CONSIDER WITH AN OPEN MIND NEPAL'S PROPOSED THAT IT BE DECLARED A ZONE OF PEACE. "WE HAVE NEITHER ACCEPTED THE PROPOSAL NOR REJECTED IT," HE SAID. CITING THE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY WITH NEPAL, INDIA'S OFFER OF A NO-WAR DECLARATION TO PAKISTAN, AND ITS IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT INDIA WANTS TO MAKE THE SUBCONTINENT FREE OF TENSION SO THAT "NOT ONLY NEPAL BUT THE WHOLE SUBCONTINENT WILL BECOME A ZONE OF PEACE."

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2. REGARDING TRADE AND TRANSIT, VAJPAYEE SAID THAT NEPAL HAD MADE PROPOSALS WHICH "WE HAVE PROMISED TO EXAMINE." HE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT INDIA HAD ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE NEPAL'S PROPOSAL TO EXPORT 30,000 TONS OF RICE THROUGH INDIA TO BANGLADESH.

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF CRITICAL NEWS ARTICLES IN THE INDIAN

PRESS AMOUNTED TO INTERFERENCE IN NEPAL'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, VAJPAYEE SAID THAT HE HAD TOLD THE NEPALIS THAT INDIA WAS A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY WITH A FREE PRESS AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH. AT THE SAME TIME HE SAID, HE ASSURED THE NEPALIS THAT THE GOI HAD SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED SAYING OR DOING ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE. ASKED IF FORMER NEPALI PRIME MINISTER KOIRALA HAD BEEN A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION, VAJPAYEE AVOIDED A DIRECT REPLY.

4. WE WILL BE TALKING TO GOI AND NEPALSESE EMBASSY OFFICERS HERE OVER NEXT FEW DAYS AND WILL REPORT INSIGHTS WE DEVELOP. GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, NUCLEAR FREE ZONES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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